



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: November 13, 2014

Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by the ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical). Meeting minutes were taken by the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love (Eurofins Lancaster Labs Env). The October 2014 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Rose Koplin (Accredited Analytical Resources) and seconded by Stephen Reduker (IAL).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ECLP): A program update was provided by Joe Aiello, Rachel Ellis, and Michele Potter (NJDEP-OQA).

A proposed revision to NJAC 7:18 will be published on 11/17/14 with a 60 day comment period. There are no technical changes. The DEP is still evaluating the possibility of using 3rd party assessors. It is not in the revision at this time.

The proposed revision will incorporate:

- Updated references to the TNI Standards (in place of the 2003 NELAC Standard). This reference change also includes the option to regulate under the NEFAP (field accreditation) Standards.
- Reorganized the certification categories to delineate codes by matrix. The number of categories has increased from 42 to 66.
- Fee increases are included. Fees have remained the same since 1996. The new fees are set up to cover costs. The minimum renewal fee (one category) will be \$835. The maximum fee will be approximately \$21300. The average fee will be approximately \$3300. There is a NELAP surcharge of \$3500/year. Travel fees are being added for assessments performed for out of state laboratories. The fee is \$134/ hour/inspector to a maximum of 7 hours of travel per day.

Once finalized, these changes will go in effect with the FY16 renewals, mailed out in 2015. Information has been sent out by listserv and the documents are posted at www.nj.gov/dep/rules and www.lexisnexis.com/njoal.

Proficiency Test (PT) Program: A program update was provided by Joe Aiello, Rachel Ellis, and Michele Potter (NJDEP-OQA).

As part of the NJAC 7:18 revision proposal noted above, the language in the regulation referring to the EPA PE program has been updated to reflect the current vendor-provided PT program.

Air PT letters were sent out 11/13/14. Suspension letters for the wastewater study will go out at the end of the month.

Questions on the PT Program may be emailed to Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) at: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov

The NELAC Institute (TNI): A program update was provided by Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA).

TNI is working on: the 2015 Standard; approval of non-governmental ABs; means to accredit individual assessors.

Dorothy Love noted that the Chemistry Committee has posted a working draft standard of the TNI Volume 1 Module 4 section 1.5.2 for LODs/LOQs. A webinar will be held on December 12, 2014 at 11:00 EST. See <http://www.nelac-institute.org/cms/posts/1415760990.php>.

Sludge / Biosolids: No program updates were reported. For questions regarding this program contact Anthony Pilawski at Anthony.Pilawski@dep.nj.gov, 609-633-3823.

Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water: An update was provided by Linda Bonnette (NJ BSDW).

Sharon Ercoliani (Garden State Labs) had a question regarding submission of PWSID DR (disinfectant residual) forms for reporting chlorine residual. When submitting these forms as pdf via email, is it necessary to send them as separate emails with one form per email? Linda Bonnette did not think this would be necessary but would confirm.

Beginning in April 2015, forms for reporting cryptosporidium and e-coli for LT@ source water sampling will be available to fill out online. A bench sheet for cryptosporidium will also be available.

A revision to the memo on the gross alpha method sent September 26th will be sent to clarify that the 2nd count is to start 20-28 hours from the midpoint of the 1st count.

Questions on the Drinking Water Program may be emailed to Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) at: linda.bonnette@dep.nj.gov

Site Remediation Program: No update was provided from the DEP.

A number of topics were brought up for discussion by laboratories:
DKQP specific:

- Use of the Technical Guidance and NJ DKQP process is active now. Laboratories are experiencing problems with getting the project required lists and limits from the clients. [multiple labs]
- There is confusion regarding the DKQP QC limits and how these are to be addressed by the laboratories. The following clarification was published in the August 2014 NJ ELAC minutes: *"Please note that the QC limits that are in the document are a guide. The labs do not need to perform corrective action based on these limits but can comment if the QC is outside the DKQP limits but within the lab limits."* [Garden State Labs]
- **SRP Clarification requested: Sample preservation information in Table 5 of the method tables notes "cool $\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$, allow $<2^{\circ}\text{C}$ if samples intact."** The <2 statement seems unnecessary with the ≤ 6 acceptance. [QC Labs]

General topics:

- **SRP Confirmation requested regarding the need to provide field blank DI water in bottles that match the sampling containers.** Some clients are questioning this and it is more costly and cumbersome to manage rather than a bulk container of DI. [Eurofins Lancaster] It was also noted that when containers are sent out this way they sometimes are returned exactly as they were sent, not transferred to the preserved containers. [Accredited Analytical Resources] DEP personnel present thought that bulk DI would be acceptable. Following the meeting, references to bottle to bottle transfer were found in the Field Sampling Manual section 2.5.1 and exceptions to it for certain situations were found in 6.9. Is it acceptable to only provide the matching bottle DI water when a client specifies that they are needed?
- Rose Koplin (Accredited Analytical Resources) asked if other labs are seeing requests to hold samples frozen for one year and how is this managed. There is no requirement to hold the samples and labs would only do it if they had space and often assess added charges for this service.

Remediation Standards update – the proposal to move the screening levels for soil impact to groundwater standards should be made in 2015 with an implementation in 2016. The soil screening levels and indoor air screening levels are being evaluated.

Questions on the SRP program may be emailed to Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRP) at greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov. Questions specific to dioxin/furans and PCB congener methods should be directed to Paula Blaze or Robert Royce at NJ DEP.

New Business:

Nominations were taken for the 2015 NJ ELAC officers.

Sharon Ercoliani (Garden State Labs) nominated Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) for chair. The nomination was seconded by Oommen Kappil (QC Laboratories).

Sharon Ercoliani (Garden State Labs) nominated Dorothy Love (Eurofins Lancaster) for secretary. The nomination was seconded by Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical).

Elections will be held at the December meeting.

Linda Bonnette (NJ DEP BSDW) reported that the EPA is reviewing the UCMR data relative to strontium and is planning to add regulatory criteria for strontium in drinking water. This will take a few years to finalize.

Subcommittees:

MUR Subcommittee: An update was provided by Michele Potter (NJ DEP OQA).

Deb Waller (NJ DEP OQA) plans to have the method summary table to section 5000 to the committee for review this week.

Electronic Data Deliverables Subcommittee: An update for the SRP-EDD Subcommittee was provided by Roger Page and Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRP-BIS).

NJ DEP's management review of the proposed qualifiers is still in progress. One proposal being considered is to keep the list of standardized qualifiers for EDDs to a few commonly defined ones so that the other letters are available for lab specific use.

Valid values were discussed and the DEP has asked labs to provide resources where common valid values are defined.

Questions and comments may be directed to Andy Geary (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) at: andy.geary@dep.nj.gov

Communications / OQA Website:

ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) reported that the NJDEP-OQA **website** is up to date with the minutes and the 2015 meeting calendar. ELAC members and stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for both the NJDEP-OQA and NJDEP-SRP listserv options to receive email notifications from NJDEP. Please check your email address to be sure it is correct. They are noticing a number of undeliverable emails.

NJDEP has migrated to MS Office 365 which involves a change to their domain name to "dep.nj.gov" that in turn results in changed email addresses.

Meeting Schedule: The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Stephen Reduker (IAL) and seconded by Rose Koplin (Accredited Analytical Resources). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday December 11, 2014 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, **5th Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. Those planning to attend must email the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love at: dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com by Monday, December 1, 2014.

Note: *All visitors must show one form of photo identification, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at the NJDEP main lobby in the Trenton, New Jersey complex (401, 501, 440 and 428 E. State Street buildings). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification. **Visitors must be escorted at all times by a NJDEP representative when in the building.***